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## GOVERNOR BARBOUR BEGINS ASIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRIP

Jackson, Mississippi – Governor Haley Barbour arrived in Malaysia today to speak at the 9th Annual Forbes Global CEO Conference and begin an economic development mission that also will take him to two other Asian countries.

At the conference in Kuala Lumpur, corporate executives from around the world are focusing on a changing international economic environment. Among items on the agenda are the credit crisis, worldwide recession, and how private entrepreneurs, investors and policy makers can work together to bring stability to the world economy. Governor Barbour will also be featured in a session with Gov. Bill Richardson, D-New Mexico, and Steve Forbes that focuses on how U.S. politics can influence world affairs.

Later this week, Governor Barbour will travel to Singapore, where he will tour the Port of Singapore and meet with corporate officials of Singapore Technologies, the parent company of VT Halter Marine in Pascagoula. The general topic is emerging opportunities for trade, transportation and investment among Singapore, Southeast Asia and the Gulf South region of the U.S. The Governor and First Lady Marsha Barbour will also be the featured guests at a luncheon sponsored by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Governor Barbour will return to the U.S. through Japan, where other economic development meetings are scheduled.

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